

Agreement with NC Guard brings new jobs to MATES

The Virginia National Guard signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the North Carolina National Guard to join the West Virginia and Pennsylvania National Guard as external customers storing equipment at the Fort Pickett Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site, or MATES, according to an announcement made June 21, 2017, by Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. MATES personnel will maintain the equipment and ensure it is fully mission capable for use by Soldiers of the respective states.

The new agreement adds a company of M1 main battle tanks and will bring an additional five full-time jobs to the MATES as well as additional training personnel to Fort Pickett.

“The agreement with the North Carolina National Guard adds to the already impressive array of capabilities at the Fort Pickett Maneuver Training Center and MATES,” Williams said. “I appreciate the hard work on the part of the Virginia National Guard logistics team for pulling all the details together to finalize the agreement, and it never would have happened without the great reputation the staff at MATES has earned through hard work and outstanding customer support.”

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2017/06/21/10001/>



Virginia Army National Guard mechanics assigned to the Fort Pickett Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site perform maintenance on a Pennsylvania Army National Guard M1 tank June 21, 2017.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Virginia Guard transporters train on rail and water operations

Virginia National Guard Soldiers of the 1173rd Transportation Company, 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group trained on rail load and seaport operations June 9-11, 2017, at Fort Eustis, Virginia.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2017/06/14/9990/>

Va. Guard aviation battalion trains at Fort A.P. Hill

Virginia National Guard Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment came together at Fort A.P. Hill for annual training June 3-17, 2017. There, the Soldiers focused on improving individual and unit readiness.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2017/06/18/10039/>

Virginia National Guard certifies 26 new rappel masters

After five grueling days, 26 Soldiers earned their rappel master certification after completing the U.S. Army’s Rappel Master Course, taught by the 183rd Regiment, Regional Training Institute June 5-9, 2017, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2017/06/15/10030/>

Virginia National Guard Counterdrug TF helps minimize fentanyl risk

Fentanyl Exposure Kills. A stark message recently put out by the Drug Enforcement Administration warning the police and the public about the dangers of fentanyl. To minimize this risk, law enforcement agencies are looking to the National Guard Counterdrug Program.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2017/06/25/10024/>

Did You Know?

July 1: Tuition Assistance Deadline

The Virginia National Guard state tuition assistance application deadline for the Fall semester is July 1, 2017.

The State Tuition Assistance Program offers up to \$8,000 per year for tuition and fees and one credential at each level up to Ph.D.

Tuition assistance can be used at participating online schools not located in Virginia; however, for tuition assistance eligibility, students attending on-campus courses must attend a Virginia-based school. Tuition assistance cannot be used at for-profit schools and all users incur a two-year commitment to the Virginia National Guard.

Visit <https://go.usa.gov/xNVfY> for more.

183rd RTI hosts historic pistol match at Fort Pickett

It was a historic year of firsts for the Virginia National Guard's Adjutant General's Pistol Match, held June 23-25, 2017, at Fort Pickett, Virginia. A record-setting 72 shooters, from both the Army and Air National Guard, turned up to test their marksmanship skills against some of the best shooters in the state. For the first time in the event's history, a team from the Air National Guard became the state's pistol champions and Sgt. Alexandra Wilson, assigned to Fort Pickett Maneuver Training Center, became the first female state pistol champion and the first female recipient of the Governor's Twenty tab.

Over the weekend, shooters fired around 15,000 rounds as they competed as individuals and as members of four-person teams over eight courses of fire. On Sunday, the shooters gathered at the RTI for an awards ceremony to recognize the champions of this year's match.

"We are here to promote and award marksmanship excellence," said Sgt. 1st Class Sammy Jones, state marksmanship coordinator.

Wilson took first place in the individual aggregate category with 585 points and became the state's first female pistol champion; Staff Sgt. Stephen Adt, assigned to the 183rd RTI, took second place with 499 points; and Tech Sgt. James Allison, assigned to the 192nd Security Forces Squadron, took third place with 497 points. Allison was also recognized as the first place novice in this year's match.

The Excellence in Competition Match requires shooters to start standing at the 30-yard line and engage four targets, moving forward all the way to the 15-yard line in positions of standing, kneeling and prone with time limits ranging from 60 to 15 seconds.

"This is one of those courses of fire that requires tremendous amounts of focus as you now know," Jones told the competitors.

In the Excellence in Competition Match, Wilson again took first place; Sgt. Chandler Potts, assigned to Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th IBCT, took second; and Staff Sgt. Andrew Norman, assigned to the 192nd Security Forces Squadron, took third place.

"My favorite part is always the team awards," Jones said. "We come here as a team, we shoot as a team, we execute as a team, everything is done as a team."

The team from the 192nd Security Forces Squadron took first place, with 2,376.5 points; and two teams from the 183rd RTI took second and third place, with 2,294.5 and 2,181.5 points respectively.

Winners received an AR500 knock-down target laser engraved with the symbol of the RTI's marksmanship training unit and their achievement.

"It's not just a piece of cardboard, or something like that, it's a tool that we use to be proficient and we think it's the most appropriate trophy to reward your marksmanship excellence with," Jones explained.

Additionally, the team from Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th IBCT, which included both Stemmler and Potts, won the Bowling Pin Match and received a bowling pin in recognition of their success.



A Virginia National Guard Soldiers shoots at the 2017 Adjutant General's Pistol Match June 24, 2017, at Fort Pickett, Virginia. More than 70 shooters fired around 15,000 rounds over eight courses of fire.

In addition to the awards ceremony, new recipients of the Governor's Twenty tab were also called forward to receive their tab. The Governor's Twenty program identifies the top 20 rifle and pistol shooters in the state and the tab is a state award that Soldiers can wear on their left shoulder.

"It's a state award," explained Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Stemmler, a platoon sergeant, assigned to Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. "A lot of times people ask you about it, and it's a good advertising tool for the competitions as well because from there it's a talking point and then they get interested."

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2017/06/28/10042/>

MORE ON THE WEB

29th Band performs at ceremony for MOH recipient

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2017/06/24/10009/>

Counterdrug TF civil operations helps coalitions broaden capacity

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2017/06/12/10027/>

29th ID troops meet WWII vet during D-Day event

<https://www.army.mil/article/189588>

Photos: 34th CST conducts FTX in Texas

<https://www.flickr.com/vanguardpao/albums/72157685655220905>

Fort Pickett on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/FortPickett>

183rd Regional Training Institute on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/183RTI>



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